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DE RUEHBY #0921 2600740  
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0155  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 2195  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE 0030  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1946  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 0059  
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 5577  
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 3850  
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 3779

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000921

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR, DRL, IO AND EAP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [RS](#) [GG](#) [AS](#)  
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA ON REBUTTING RUSSIAN MISSTATEMENTS ON  
GEORGIA

REF: STATE 98030

[¶1.](#) (U) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Annabel Anderson, Assistant Secretary for Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on September [¶16](#).

[¶2.](#) (SBU) In a preliminary response, Anderson said the U.S. position on Russia's claims about Georgia tracked perfectly with the GOA understanding. She noted that Foreign Minister Smith had released a statement on August 14 asserting Russia's military action had been "disproportionate," resulting in widespread damage and heavy casualties, and calling on Russia to honor the terms of the ceasefire, respect the territorial integrity of Georgia, and resolve its differences with Georgia through peaceful means.

[¶3.](#) (SBU) Anderson took on board the U.S. request for another strong statement to counter Russian misrepresentations about Georgia, promising a more detailed response at a later time.

MCCALLUM